

I.

CREDITON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1970

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. N.F. SAWERS, M.B., Ch.B.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

L.W. BLAKE, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Building Inspector and Technical Assistant

D.M. WIDGERY.

Clerical Staff

Miss S.L.E. Batters.

Miss D.J. Turner.

Mr. Chairman & Members of the
Crediton Urban District Council.

I have the honour of presenting my report for 1970.

The town's services continue to be up-dated and the health of the residents continues to be good. However even with the excellent meals-on-wheels services the old persons home under construction and the Council's proposals for warden schemes, the plight of a number of elderly people living in sub-standard accommodation needs to receive attention.

Several small properties occupied by elderly people could be immediately condemned as unfit but until alternative accommodation to modern standards is available the officers feel that the people concerned should not be subjected to the worry of slum clearance and condemnation proposals. When good new accommodation is available then rehousing and slum clearance can proceed as a combined effort.

During the year I have attended several meetings of the Royal Society of Health as well as meetings held in Exeter under the auspices of the County Medical Officer and where relevant matters have been discussed the necessary action has been taken in conjunction with the Council's Public Health Department.

I would finally like to thank Mr. Blake and his staff for the preparation and production of this report.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

N. F. SAWERS.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	1,096
Registrar General's estimate of population ...	5,190
No. of inhabited houses at the end of 1970 according to the rate book	1,912
Rateable Value	£231,306
Product of Penny Rate	£914

2. VITAL STATISTICS.

(a) Live Births

Male	Female	Total 1970	Total 1969	Total 1968
38	40	78	87	92

Births illegitimate

Male	Female	Total 1970	Total 1969	Total 1968
1	2	3	6	3

Crude birth rate per 1,000 of population

1970	15.0	1969	17.1	1968	18.5
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(b) Still Births.

There were no still births in 1970.

(c) Deaths.

(a) Death rate.

Male	Female	Total 1970	Total 1969	Total 1968
24	39	63	90	61

Crude death rate per 1,000 of population 12.1

(b) Deaths from puerperal causes Nil

(c) Infantile Mortality
(Deaths of Infants under one year of age) 1

(d) Causes of death as follows:-

Causes of Death	Sex	All	0-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-
		Ages									
Malignant neoplasm	M	2							1		1
Oesophagus	F	1							-		1
Malignant Neoplasm	M	1								1	-
Stomach	F	1								-	1
Malignant Neoplasm	M	-								-	-
Intestine	F	2								1	1
Malignant Neoplasm	M	-							-		-
Breast	F	3							2		1
Other Malignant	M	1								1	-
Neoplasms	F	1								-	1
Benign and	M	-								-	
Unspecified Neoplasms	F	1								1	
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	M	-								-	
	F	1								1	

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Causes of Death	Sex	All								
		ages	0-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65- 75-
Anaemias	M	1								1
	F	-								-
Hypertensive Disease	M	-								-
	F	3								3
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	5						1	1	3
	F	7						-	2	5
Other forms of Heart Disease	M	1			1					-
	F	2			-					2
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	-							-	-
	F	6							1	5
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	-								-
	F	1								1
Influenza	M	2							1	1
	F	-							-	-
Pneumonia	M	4					1		1	2
	F	1					-		-	1
Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	4							4	-
	F	2							1	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	M	-								-
	F	1								1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	M	1							1	-
	F	1							-	1
Diseases of Musculo- Skeletal System	M	-							1	
	F	1							-	

Causes of Death	Sex	All									
		ages	0-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-
Congenital	M	-	-								
Anomalies	F	1	1								
Symptoms and Ill	M	-									-
Defin ed Conditions	F	1									1
Motor Vehicle	M	1			1						
Accidents	F	-			-						
All other	M	1						1			-
Accidents	F	1						-			1
Suicide and	M	-								1	
Self-inflicted	F	1								-	
Injuries											
Total All Causes	M	24	-	-	1	1	1	2	2	10	7
	F	39	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	8	27

SECTION B

3. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

(a) Nursing Services.

A resident District Nurse employed by the Devon County Council adequately provides this service.

(b) Care of Mothers and Young Children.

These are visited at home by two Devon County Council Health Visitors.

(c) Maternity & Child Welfare Services.

The District Nurse Midwife working in co-operation with the General Practitioners provide the basis for ante-natal care, confinement and post-natal care. In addition home helps are provided by the Devon County Council in appropriate cases.

In cases where home conditions are unsuitable confinement arrangements are made for the mother to go to either Mowbray House or the City Hospital, Exeter.

Child welfare and maternity clinics are held at Newcombes weekly and during 1970 attendances were as follows:-

<u>Infants</u>	<u>Toddlers</u>	<u>Children 2-5</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1970</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1969</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1968</u>
1082	410	448	1940	1596	1992

Vaccinations, diphtheria, whooping cough and poliomyelitis immunisations are available at this Clinic but a fuller use could be made of this service.

(d) Tuberculosis and Venereal Disease.

There are no Centres in Crediton for these diseases. Cases of tuberculosis are seen by the Tuberculosis Officer at Ivybank, Exeter and he then decides whether they are nursed at home or sent to Hawkmoor Sanatorium.

(e) Mass Radiography.

Sessions in Crediton were withdrawn during the year due to lack of general need.

(f) Infectious Diseases.

These are nursed at home and if the Doctor in attendance considers they should be transferred to hospital they are removed to Whipton Isolation Hospital.

(g) Ambulances.

The Devon County Council control the ambulance service, at present one ambulance is stationed in Crediton and run by the Crediton Branch of the Red Cross.

(h) Laboratory Works.

All laboratory examinations required are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Exeter at the new department of Pathology at Wonford.

- (i) The Meals on Wheels service operated by the W.V.S. provided 2,461 meals during the year. Meals are provided by the Devon County Council kitchen at Newcombes and distributed by members of the W.V.S.

(j) Welfare of Old People.

The Devon County Council's Old Peoples Home at St. Martins was almost completed during the year and this should prove a great asset in helping disabled elderly people in the district in subsequent years.

SECTION C

4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

The first year of running the new works gave the following figures for the period ended on 31st March, 1970.

Total Flow	208,887,000 gallons
Trade Wastes	41,269,000 gallons
Running Charge	£9579 or 11d per 1000 gallons
Capital and Running Charges	£39,716 or 3/10d per 1000 gallons

The major share of running costs was taken up by

Wages	£3594
Rates	£2915
Electricity	£648
Gas	£564

A considerable saving in the cost of gas is likely in the next financial year as methane is now being produced to meet almost all requirements.

The trade waste figures take into account milk waste, chemical waste from lozanges, etc., waste from confectionary production but does not include waste from poultry processing as this station was not connected until May, 1970

Double alternating filtration was only used infrequently but good results were produced as follows:-

		<u>Mg/litre</u>
20th March, 1970	Suspended Solids	16
	B.O.D.	7.9
29th May, 1970	Suspended Solids	17
	B.O.D.	7.1
7th August, 1970	Suspended Solids	32
	B.O.D.	19.6
28th September, 1970	Suspended Solids	22
	B.O.D.	17.3
3rd December, 1970	Suspended Solids	9
	B.O.D.	6.5
Average for Year	Suspended Solids	19
	B.O.D.	11.7
	seven	

Smell from milk waste has been completely eliminated and no complaints at all are now likely.

All parts of the district except Salmonhutch and a few outlying properties are now connected to the works, in fact there are now only fifteen known septic tank systems.

A start was made during the year on a sewer maintenance programme to provide additional manholes, etc., and this will have to be carried out for some years to overcome sections of surcharged sewers during rainstorms.

(b) Water

During the year adequate supplies of water were available from the North Devon Water Board and the Board was able to start investigating the possible extraction of water from the sources taken over from the urban district during regrouping for use to supply parts of the surrounding rural district.

61 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination during the period and 59 were satisfactory.

(c) Public Conveniences.

The newly erected in Newcombes Meadow continue to be used extensively by mainly motorists passing through the town and the need for an off-street parking place near to the conveniences is now a necessity.

The other two conveniences have been examined and will be partly modernised as far as is possible with the limited internal space available.

(d) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Refuse collection continues as a kerbside collection and seems to satisfy the majority of ratepayers although occasional complaints from new residents who have been used to a back door collection. As bins are collected from the back doors of old, infirm and sick people it is basically only the able bodied who asked to bring their bin to the kerb.

The once weekly domestic collection and twice weekly business collection appears to be quite reasonable.

The crude tipping at the Punch Bowl Tip continues but with the considerable amount of surplus excavated materials from building and road improvement sites being tipped refuse is covered fairly frequently.

The need to leave the tip open to allow ratepayers to leave their unwanted items on the tip rather than in the countryside has led to difficulties as the majority of these items are deposited just in the gateway and sometimes in the lay-by outside the gate. A 10 yard walk inside the tip would overcome all this difficulty.

(e) Rodent Control.

Only a few complaints of rodents were received during the year and only a very limited amount of survey work was done.

Rodent Control Cont.

Treatments carried out were as follows:-

Refuse Tip	4 visits	9 hours	1 property
Private Houses	29 visits	22 hours	16 properties
Schools	1 visit	2 hours	1 property

(f) Sanitary Inspections.

(1) Summary of Visits.

Council Properties	45
Private Houses	15
Food Premises	24
Offices, etc.	20
Slaughterhouses	123
Council Tip	63
Sewage Disposal Works	104
Other Premises	41

(2) Notices Served.

Housing Acts.

Time and Place Notices	3 properties
Closing Orders	2 properties
Undertaking to repair	
accepted	1 property
Informal	6 properties

Public Health Acts.

Informal	2 properties
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(g) Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

During the year a further two premises were registered and details for the year are

<u>Type.</u>	<u>No. Registered.</u>	<u>No. Inspected</u> <u>in 1970.</u>
Offices	23	7
Retail Shops	41	12
Catering Establishments	4	2

29 visits were carried out during the year including inspections concerned with the one accident reported in the year.

SECTION D

5. HOUSING

General Housing.

No Council Houses were erected during the year.

Completions of Private Houses were as follows:-

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>
Two Bedrooms	21	13	27
Three Bedrooms	29	11	19
Four Bedrooms	6	11	9
	<u>56</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>55</u>

54 houses were under construction on 1st January, 1970 and 24 were under construction on 31st December, 1970.

Housing list.

The position of numbers of persons on the housing waiting list in 1970 compared with previous years was

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>
No. on Council's Waiting list already resident in the Urban District.	75	101	95
No. on Council's Waiting List wanting to move into the town.	29	40	35
No. of key workers wanting accommodation.	2	1	NIL
	<u>106</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>130</u>

Accommodation required by these families is:-

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>
One Bedroom	55	70	58
Two Bedrooms	31	46	46
Three Bedrooms	19	21	22
Four Bedrooms	1	5	4

The list is predominately old persons and young couples about to marry or just married.

Building Regulations.

Building Regulation inspections carried out during the year were:-

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>
Footings	52	114
Foundation	34	101
Oversite Concrete	34	67
Damp-proof Course	44	72
Drains	157	211
Routine	452	128
Completion	75	70

Improvement Grants.

Standard Grants dealt with during the year were:-

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969</u>
No. of applications received	10	11
No. of applications approved	3	8
No. of applications refused	1	Nil
No. of improvements completed	7	9
Amenities provided Baths	7	8
Basins	2	9
Hot Water Supplies	5	6 (3 points)
	2	5 (2 points)
W.C.'s	5	7

Amounts paid in grants £1292 £1452

eleven.

Caravan Sites.

Only two residential caravans remained on the site at Glenoreedy and the vans and the site were satisfactorily maintained.

Housing Act, 1969.

With regard to fixing of rent of dwellings in good repair, details are as follows:-

Sec. 45 Qualification Certificates.

Applications received	2
Applications granted	2

Sec. 46 Certificates of provisional approval.

Applications received	3
Applications granted	
Applications under Consideration	2

SECTION E

6. FOOD AND DRUGS

During the year the following food was voluntarily surrendered.

Canned Meat	13 lbs. 12 ozs.
Processed Meat	22 lbs.
Frozen Food	356 lbs. 11 ozs.
Other Canned Foods	382 lbs. 14 ozs.

Food Hygiene Regulations.

The standard of hygiene in food shops and cafes continues to cause very little to complain about.

Slaughter of Animals.

100% meat inspection required 123 visits to slaughterhouse upto the end of September when the licence was not renewed.

Carcases inspected were

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>
Cattle	190	295	260
Calves	13	17	15
Sheep and Lamba	590	652	1036
Pigs	421	633	682

thirteen

Condemnation of meat are offal were:-

6 bovine livers	60lbs.
pork	7lbs.
2 pigs heads TB.	24lbs.

Poultry Inspection.

Major alteration to the poultry station enabled a very much higher standard of hygiene to be introduced. Transport of birds, together with better selection at the farm, reduced considerably the number of birds condemned.

With a national known firm having control standards are likely to improve all the time.

No council poultry inspection of poultry was done and all birds killed are processed

Birds processed.	724,439
Type of bird.	Hens only.
Rejected.	4,370

SECTION F

7. FACTORIES.

19 inspections of factory premises were carried out during the year, 53 factories being registered.

SECTION G

8. NOISE.

Two industrial concerns produced the whole of the complaints received during the year.

The grinders at a mill have now been sufficiently silenced to be acceptable to the residents of the area.

The dairy each year produces complaints which vary from year to year and at present fans are under consideration as these are a nuisance to a limited number of people mainly during normal working hours in summer months.

Appendix 1
Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned.
In Whole or in Part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	190	Nil	13	590	421	Nil
Number inspected	190	Nil	13	590	421	Nil
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole Carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part organ was condemned	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and cysticerci	3.16	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.48	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.48	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

